

File  
John Adams  
speeches

**JOHN ADAMS**  
**(1735-1826)**

John Adams was

A plain dressing man  
He loved long walks and open meadows.  
He had a plain, round face.  
Small in stature, he stood 5'8".  
He cut his own hay and split his own firewood.  
He kept lifelong friends.  
He had a brilliant mind.  
He read Cicero, Tacitus and Plato.  
He read Herneydides in the original Greek.  
He was drawn to Shakespear.  
He had little social standing.  
He could not dance or play cards.  
He had no moneyed background.  
He was one of the best known lawyers in Boston.  
He defended one of the British soldiers charged in the aftermath of the Boston Massacre.  
He believed in the American Revolution and the destiny of other colonists to become a  
great people.  
He detested slavery and distrusted democracy.  
He wrote the Mass. Constitutions and *Thoughts on Government* which framed the  
intellectual underpinnings of the U.S. Constitution.  
He was a delegate to the First Continental Congress; he edited Jefferson's draft of the  
Declaration of Independence.  
He and Jefferson were each signers of the Declaration of Independence.  
He was the Minister of Defense for the Continental Government.  
He became our emissary to France.  
The First Vice President  
The Second President  
He kept us out of war.  
He appointed the greatest jurist of history to the Supreme Court.  
He was the First President to lose while in office.  
His son became one of the most distinguished young men of his age and later became  
President himself.

John Adams had a lifelong love-hate struggle with Thomas Jefferson. The record of their  
correspondence comprises one of the greatest collections of political writings in our  
nation's history.

He died July 4, 1826, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. A few  
hours later Thomas Jefferson passed as well.